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J. H. BALDWIN,
Prescott, March 27, 1866. 62m

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Fort Whipple, April 5, 1866. 70m

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AUBRY'S JOURNEY THROUGH ARIZONA IN THE YEAR 1853.

TEJON PASS, July 10, 1853.

As the country between this point and San Francisco is well known, I have kept no minutes of my journey thus far. We crossed the Sierra Nevada at the Tejon Pass, which is in about the 35th parallel of latitude, and about 50 miles south of Walker's Pass. From this point we will travel east until we reach the Rio Grande at Albuquerque, New Mexico. It is well to remark, that, unfortunately, there is no one with us who knows anything of the country through which we must pass, and we could not obtain any information in regard to it. My party consists of eighteen men—twelve Americans and six Mexicans. Messrs. Tully, of Santa Fe, and Adair, of Independence, have joined us for a pleasure trip. We use pack animals entirely, having neither wagon or carriage.

July 11th. Left the Pass, and made twelve miles east, over a level, gravelly, and sandy soil, and found a spring of good water.

July 12th. Travelled twenty miles eastward, the country similar to that of yesterday. We met with no timber, but found several springs of fresh water. There is timber in the mountains about the Tejon Pass, but none on the eastern side of them.

July 13th. Travelled to-day thirty-five miles east, and struck the Mohave river, where we found plenty of good water. This river sometimes disappears in its course, while at others it contains as much as two feet of water. There is a little cottonwood timber upon its banks, and catclaws in great abundance. The cane is not of the large species. The Mohave takes its rise in the San Bernardino Mountains, which lie to the south of us; and after pursuing a northern course to a point a little north of our present camp, turns suddenly east, and soon south of east to empty into the great Colorado. Found good grass for our animals.

July 14th. Made twenty miles east along the Mohave, and found water, timber and grass abundant.

July 15th. Continued along the river about eighteen miles further, in a direction nearly east, then leaving the Mohave to our right, we travelled fifteen miles northeast. Met with abundance of grass, a little timber, and a few miles of fertile land along the river. There is no water in the bed of the stream, but it may be had by digging a few feet. Found wild cane from time to time. Encamped without water, grass or wood.

July 16th. Still pursuing a northeastern course—we travelled to-day thirty-five miles over a level, gravelly soil. We have deviated from our due east course in order to avoid a region of sand hills that lie to our right, and directly between us and the Great Colorado. The weather is very hot, and no rain has fallen since we left the Pass. So far we have met with neither Indians nor game of any kind. We obtained a little water about half-way in our day's journey, but saw no timber or grass.

July 17th. Made thirty-three miles north-east, over a level, gravelly country; about half-way obtained a little very bad water. No grass or timber in sight during the day; but at night we obtained good water, grass and wood. Prairie mountains lie on both sides of the trail.

July 18th. Travelled twenty miles, still northeast, over a level country. Saw but little good land, and no timber. After travelling about five miles, we found good spring water, but encamped without any.

July 19th. Course still northeast, distance thirty-two miles; country level, soil inferior, grass and water, but no timber.

July 20th. Made twenty miles northeast, over a level, gravelly country, and obtained good spring water and grass. Saw no timber.

July 21st. Were detained in camp all day by the sickness of one of the men.

July 22nd. Travelled twenty miles east-southeast, most of the distance through a little canon, where we found grass, water and cane in abundance, and struck the Great Colorado of the West. The river at this place is 300 yards in width, and has from 10 to 15 feet of water in the channel. Its banks are entirely destitute of timber and grass; in fact, no vegetable is met with except a small shrub, called *chaco*, by the Mexicans, and I believe, a *Salicornia* by botanists. We were very fortunate in striking the river at a point where there are neither canyons nor mountains; although the country appears very rough and mountainous both to the north and south of us. To the north the rocks are black and irregular, and seem to be volcanic; while the cliffs to the south are of red sandstone. The banks at the crossing are low, rocky and unchanging, and the current exceedingly rapid.

We followed the river up for five miles, and selected a crossing where it is some 200 yards wide and 20 or 25 feet deep. We succeeded in finding a little drift-wood, of which we made a raft. Four men took charge of it, and it was carried some three miles with the current before it could be landed. The lights were covered with Indians in readiness to shoot us down. I started down with four men to follow the raft and protect the men who were upon it, having ordered the camp to move down in haste. Having unloaded the raft upon the eastern bank, the men recrossed the river, and we selected a camp opposite the place where the baggage was deposited, and during the night kept up a constant fire with our rifles across the river, and in this manner protected it from the Indians.

The animals were taken to the crossing I had first selected, to swim the river. I took them up with three men on the west bank, and four men received them on the opposite side. This detained us half a day, and altogether we were detained five days in crossing the river.

The drift-wood of which we constructed our little raft appeared to have been cut by beavers. These animals must be exceedingly abundant, as they destroyed during the first night the ropes with which our raft was bound together, and carried off the timber. The loss of the ropes was a great inconvenience to us. We set a guard afterward at night over our second raft, to protect it from a similar fate.

The river showed signs of having been some 15 feet higher than when we crossed it. It is here a grand and magnificent stream, swift like the Mississippi and apparently as well adapted to navigation.

The place of our crossing is well suited to bridging, or ferrage by steam or otherwise.

We saw no water-fowl about the river, and only a few antelope and black-tail deer. East of the river we encountered a great many rattlesnakes of an uncommonly large size. They seem to be a new species, as their tails are covered, for some six inches from the point, with alternate white and black rings of hair or bristles, about a quarter of an inch long.

According to my observations the Colorado of the west is set down upon the maps greatly too far to the east, perhaps as much as 150 miles.

The Indians were constantly in sight and watching our movements. They could not be induced to approach us; but assured us, across the river, that they were Mohaves.

On one occasion while at rest for a few minutes in a deep gulch, about a mile from the crossing on the west side of the river, a Mexican mule-boy discovered something glistening upon the ground, which on examination proved to be gold. We at once commenced washing sand in our tin cups, and in every one discovered particles of gold. This gold was discovered in a dark, coarse sand, and a black, heavy sand was found in the cup after washing away the gravel. The sandy soil was so compact that we could not dig it up with our fingers. The Indians being still on the heights near us, and our party being separated by the river, the danger was so great that we could not remain longer at this spot. I intended to return again, but the Indians became so numerous that it was impossible to do so. This gulch is on the right bank of the river, and the head of it is in a very rough and rugged mountain.

July 27th. We washed sand on the east side of the river, and found gold in greater abundance than on any previous occasion. I myself washed a tin-cupful of yellow clay, and found about 25 cents' worth of the pure metal. A Mexican boy, on washing a frying-panful of coarse sand, found forty to fifty particles of pure gold, some of which were as large as the head of a pin. We took the clay and sand from the top of the ground without digging. The appearance of the country also indicates gold. I made no further examination, as our animals had subsisted for five days upon the *chaco*, without a blade of grass, and our provisions had been damaged in the Colorado, which must cause us to travel several days without anything to eat.

Today we made ten miles east. The country is without wood, water or grass. We were compelled to return to the river on their account. Struck it fifteen miles below the crossing, and found that from near that point it makes a considerable bend toward the east. The country does not indicate gold, nor could we find any by washing the sand.

July 29th. The condition of our sick men obliged us to remain in camp all day. Our animals were in a starving condition, as there was not a particle of grass on or near the river.

July 30th. Left the river and travelled fifty miles east and five miles northeast. A sick Mexican was so much exhausted that we were compelled to make for a mountain north of us which indicated water; but we found neither water, timber nor grass.

July 31st. Travelled eight miles northeast, and struck a large stream, but much smaller than the Colorado, coming from the east-southeast, and running west-northwest. This stream may be what the Mexicans designate as the *Rio Grande de los Apaches*, and what the Americans have recently called the *Luzon Red River*.

One of my Mexicans followed this stream a few miles, and says that it empties into the Colorado—seven or eight miles below camp, and that there is below us a valley of good soil, and grass in abundance. Where we struck this stream there is neither timber nor grass.

In the evening we travelled five miles south, to avoid mountains, and as many east. The country was level, but without grass or timber.

The mountains, or perhaps more properly hills, that we have thus far met with, are nothing more than elevations of various forms and dimensions, dispersed in a detached and irregular manner over a vast and otherwise uninterupted plateau. Hence I have constantly termed the country level, and very properly, as it may be traversed in all directions among the solitary and detached elevations of mountains, without the necessity of crossing them.

August 1st. Travelled twenty miles east, and found a spring of good water; the grass was abundant, and cedar trees were seen on the high lands. The country is level, and the soil inferior.

August 2d. Made ten miles east, crossing a mountain or ridge where we found a fine pass, grass and timber (cedar and pinon) abundant.

August 3d. Travelled twenty miles south of east over a country somewhat broken; timber and grass abundant. Indians were around us in number all day, shooting arrows every moment. They wounded some of our mules, and my famous mule Dolly, who has so often rescued me from danger by her speed and capacity for endurance.

August 4th. We moved ten miles south to avoid mountains, and struck a valley which we left a few days since, and which extends to the Colorado. The mountains which we left are covered with timber. Grass and water were found in plenty.

The Indians commenced firing on us at sunrise, and continued until we reached camp. Arrows passed through the clothes of several of the men, and three passed through my own clothes, and I was slightly wounded by two others in different places. An arrow passed through the collar of Dick Williams. We killed several of the Indians and wounded more. Peter Pruden accidentally shot himself in the right knee.

August 5th. Travelled ten miles southeast, in a valley; no water, grass and timber in abundance on all the mountains.

August 6th. Continued ten miles southeast in the same valley in which we travelled yesterday; found no water, but good grass, and plenty of timber on and below the mountains. As our sick men are unable to travel, we are suffering for water, having been nearly three days without any; and indications are not now favorable. Indians still around us.

August 7th. Travelled ten miles south-east, half the distance in the same valley, and then went to a mountain and found good water, grass and timber. All the mountains in this country are covered with cedar, pine and

pinon. The grass is good in all the prairies, but none of them have any water. The soil is sandy and full of particles of mica. Indians are numerous, and continue to fire upon us.

August 8th. Made fifteen miles east-south-east, crossing a little chain of mountains, where we found a level pass, and timber, grass and water in abundance. Crossed a stream running from northeast to southwest, which I think goes to the Colorado. After crossing the mountains, we passed through a fine valley, with an abundance of good spring water, and timber near it. The Indians attacked the camp several times last night, but without success, and continued fighting us during the day, but with less boldness and resolution.

August 9th. After proceeding eight miles east, we found ourselves surrounded by Indians, apparently from one to four thousand feet deep; at least we sometimes could not see the bottom. We were compelled to return to the same camp. The country is high and level, and well supplied with timber, grass and water.

August 10th. Moved ten miles southeast over a somewhat broken country. Crossed a stream of good water (with timber along its course), which is evidently a tributary of the Gila. The country indicates gold in abundance. We crossed a little chain of mountains where we found a great quantity of silver ore in flint rocks.

August 11th. Travelled southeast over a country a little broken, but well supplied with water, grass and timber. Indications of gold still exist.

August 12th. Made fifteen miles southeast, crossing the bed of a large stream now dry, with plenty of timber along it. Struck the valley which we left some five or six days ago, having crossed a few days ago the head water of a stream which passes through it. This valley will be of the utmost importance in the making of a wagon or rail-road.

To-day, for the first time on this trip, we ate a dinner of mule meat. It was a new dish to most of our men, and made some of them sick. To me it was an old acquaintance, and I feel well. It only served to remind me of hard times on other journeys. The quality of the meat depends upon the appetite of the man. Several of us are now on foot.

August 13th. Marched twenty miles east, leaving to our right the great valley so often mentioned, and which extends to the Colorado. Passed through a little valley between two mountains, where we found timber, grass and water in abundance. The soil was excellent.

We here met Indians, who professed to be very friendly, with papers of recommendation from the commanding officer of Fort Yuma, on the Gila trail.

August 14th. We left early, and after travelling five miles in an eastern direction, stopped to breakfast near an Indian camp of Carroteros. They professed friendship, but having no faith in their professions, I sent a camp on the top of a small hill, which would give us an advantage in case of a fight. All went on well until our mules were added, and we were ready to start, when, at given signal, some forty or fifty Indians, apparently unarmed, and accompanied by their wives, children and babies (tied to boards) in their arms, very suddenly charged upon us and attempted to destroy the whole party with clubs and rocks. The signal of attack was the taking of my hand in farewell by a chief, which he held with all his strength. So soon as these first Indians commenced the fight, about two hundred more rushed from behind a hill and brush, and charged upon us with clubs, bows and arrows. I thought, for a few minutes, that our party must necessarily be destroyed; but some of us having disengaged ourselves, we shot them down so fast with our Colt's revolvers, that we soon produced confusion among them and put them to flight.

We owe our lives to these five arms, the best that were ever invented, and now brought, by successive improvements, to a state of perfection.

Mr. Henry, an American, and Francisco Guzman, a New Mexican, greatly distinguished themselves.

Twelve of us, just two-thirds of the party, were severely wounded. I, among the rest, was wounded in six places. Adair, I fear, is dangerously injured. It was a very great satisfaction to me to find that none of our men were killed, nor any of the animals lost. We bled very much from our numerous wounds; but the blood and bodies of the Indians covered the ground for many yards around us. We killed over twenty-five and wounded more. The bows and arrows that we captured and destroyed, would have more than filled a large wagon.

Before the attack commenced, the squaw-kept the clubs, which were from 18 to 24 inches long, concealed in deerkins about their children. When put to flight they threw their babies down into a deep, brushy gulch near at hand, by which many of them must have been killed. This is the first time I ever met with a war party of Indians accompanied by their wives and children. The presence of the latter was evidently to remove from our minds all suspicion of foul play on their part. I was never before in so serious a condition with a party in all my life. On this occasion, which will be the last, I imprudently gave my right hand, in parting, to the Indian chief. The left must answer for leave-taking hereafter.

We have thus far had so much ill luck to encounter, that our arrival at our destination must be much delayed. First our men fell sick; then our provisions were damaged in the Colorado; latterly a man shot himself through the knee; our mules' feet, for want of shoes, are worn out; and to crown all to-day, two-thirds of the party are badly wounded and all have barely escaped with their lives. We are now subsisting entirely on mule meat, and do not get as much of that as we want. We are without salt and pepper, and in their absence it requires a stout stomach to digest our fare. But nobody complains, and the possibility of not doing what we have set out to do, has never entered the minds of my party.

We travelled five miles this afternoon, with the Indians at our heels shooting arrows at us every moment.

August 15th. Travelled ten miles east among mountains, where we found water, grass and timber in abundance. Indians around us all day shooting arrows. I omitted, in the proper place, to say that I brought away from the mountains we passed through

on the 10th, a little black sand, less than a cupful, and found in it on washing, twelve or fifteen particles of pure gold.

August 16th. Made ten miles east, and found no water; plenty of grass and timber seen on the mountains north of us. Indians still numerous and troublesome. To-day met with copper in very great quantities. A vein of the pure native metal, about an inch and a half in diameter, was seen sticking out from a rock, which must have been worn away by time and left the copper exposed. I think there is gold in the soil, but am not certain. Our condition at present is bad enough. I have eight wounds upon me, five of which cause me much suffering; and at the same time, my mule having given out, I have to walk the whole distance. Thirteen of us are now wounded, and one is sick, so that we have only four men in good health. We are unable to travel faster on account of Adair's condition.

Our canteens, etc., having been broken or destroyed in our fight with the Indians, we can not carry water enough for more than half a day. This loss caused us to suffer more than can be imagined. Our animals were broken down by this travelling which could not be avoided. I have the misfortune to have an abundance of water every day if we could march some twenty-five or thirty miles, but our condition is such that it requires three days to make that small distance. In addition to all this, we are now on half rations of horse-meat; and I have the misfortune to know that it is the flesh of my inestimable mule Dolly, who has so often, by her speed, saved me from death at the hands of the Indians. Being wounded some days ago by the Carroteros, she gave out, and we are now subsisting upon her flesh.

August 17th. Moved to-day about ten miles east, over a country rather rough, suffering much for want of water. In crossing mountains we have to select the highest places instead of the regular passes, as when caught in canyons or gulches we are not strong enough to fight the Indians. To-day, from the top of a little mountain, I saw the great valley, so often mentioned, extending to the Colorado, not over twenty miles south of us; and it now seems to turn more to the east. I intend to make for it. I entertain fears that Adair and Backerville are in danger from their wounds; all the others are getting better.

August 18th. Moved only five miles south of east. Found water, grass and some timber.

August 19th. Went five miles to day in the same direction as yesterday, and came to the great valley that extends to the Colorado. Encamped on a creek of good water and grass; Adair being sometimes unable to travel, we are waiting on him. Indians around us shooting arrows. We never return their fire without being certain of our shots.

August 20th. Travelled twenty miles east over a level, gravelly country; crossed a creek; found grass; no timber in sight.

August 21st. Moved ten miles east over a level, gravelly country, and struck a large stream, which is no doubt a branch of the Gila. The mountains on the north of us are very rough and without timber.

There is no grass on this stream, which is thirty yards wide, with three feet of water in the channel. Its course is from north to south.

August 22d. Made ten miles southeast to a mountain. Country level, and without grass or timber.

August 23d. Moved about the same distance in the same direction, over a low, gravelly country. Struck a stream of good water, but without grass or timber.

August 24th. Went about eight miles northeast, and encamped in the mountains, where we met with the Apaches Tontos. No timber seen to-day.

August 25th. Crossed the mountains where the Apaches Tontos live; found water, grass and timber in abundance. Travelled fifteen miles northeast from the top of this mountain, from which we saw the Sierra Blanca Mountains, which are near the pueblo of Zuni.

Saw a prairie extending from the east end of the Carrotero Mountain to the upper end of the Sierra Blanca. I saw this prairie when we were at the east end of the Carrotero Mountain, but we were not in a condition to examine it; fifty miles is nothing with good animals; but ours were broken down, and our wounded men were unable to travel over ten miles a day. But I saw the country sufficiently well to convince me that there will be no obstacle whatever to the making of a rail or wagon road. The mountains which we crossed to-day are impracticable for either. I should like to return to the east end of the Carrotero Mountain, and pursue the route I indicate; but it is utterly impossible to do so, as we are now living on berries and herbs. We would rejoice to have mule meat, but we have so few animals, and so many wounded men, that it would be useless to kill any more. I have the good fortune of having true men with me, otherwise it would be uncertain that a party could get through; but I have confidence in my men, and I feel positively certain that we will make the trip.

It will take us some ten or twelve days to reach Zuni, where we expect to procure provisions. I shall travel near the mountains, as heretofore, on account of the certainty and facility of getting water, but shall remain in sight of the prairie extending from the Carrotero to the Sierra Blanca Mountain.

August 26th. Moved ten miles east of northeast, most of the way along a creek, where we found grass in plenty, and some timber. The Apaches Tontos are numerous and troublesome.

August 27th. Made fifteen miles east, crossing two streams, which are branches of the Gila. We met Indians to-day, who I think, are not Apaches Tontos, as they do not speak any Spanish, and refuse to answer our questions. We obtained from them over fifteen hundred dollars worth of gold for a few old articles of clothing. The Indians use gold bullets for their guns. They are of different sizes, and each Indian has a pouch of them. We saw an Indian load his gun with one large and three small gold bullets to shoot a rabbit. They proposed exchanging them for lead, but I preferred trading other articles. Whether these Indians made these balls themselves, or whether they were obtained by the murder of miners in California and Sonora, I am unable to say.

August 28th. Travelled ten miles east over a good country; met with more Indians, and traded for some horse meat, by giving articles of clothing in exchange. We obtained also for a few hundred dollars worth of gold. To-day a mule broke down, and an Indian gave me for it a lump of gold weighing a pound and a half less one ounce.

The Indians are so numerous they would destroy the party if we allowed them the least chance. But we are very vigilant, and select camps on elevated places, consequently we are unable to make any examinations for gold in the sands of the country. The Indians call themselves *Beltanos*.

August 29th. Travelled some twenty miles in an easterly direction; the country quite level, and the land good, with plenty of grass and water.

August 30th. Travelled to-day about fifteen miles east, over a country a little broken. Water and grass abundant.

August 31st. Moved about twelve miles north of east, over a country similar to that of yesterday. Found water, grass and pine timber.

September 1st. Travelled fifteen miles over a country a little broken, and well supplied with water, grass and timber. The soil was good.

September 2d. Travelled the same distance northeast to the Sierra Blanca. Followed Indian trails all day, and found grass, water and pine timber in great abundance; and most of the soil is of a superior quality.

September 3d. Pursuing the same course, we travelled some fifteen miles among the same mountains. To-day we passed through valleys of good soil, and we found the pine timber in greater abundance than yesterday. The trees are generally from two and a half to five feet in diameter, and over two hundred feet high. We have seen timber enough to-day to make a railroad from the eastern base of the Sierra Blanca. The passes through this mountain are level, and can be travelled by wagons without any difficulty whatever.

September 4th. Made twenty-five miles northeast, crossing the Colorado (Chiquito) after travelling about two miles. The land is level and good, and water and wood are plenty.

September 5th. Made twenty miles east of northeast, and got out of the mountains after travelling five miles; struck the prairie, where we found good soil, grass and water.

September 6th. Continuing northeast over a good and level country, for twenty-five miles we reached the Indian town or Pueblo of Zuni, where we met with a hospitable and civilized population, from whom we obtained an abundance of good provisions, over which we greatly rejoiced.

We have subsisted for a month on mule and horse flesh, and for the most of that time on half or quarter rations. But as I have reached this place with all my men, I feel satisfied.

I shall take no notes of the country from this town to Albuquerque, on the Rio Grande, as a level and much travelled wagon road exists between the two places, and is familiar to the people of New Mexico. It has been described by others, and is well known to present no difficulties to the construction of a railroad.

September 10th. At Albuquerque, New Mexico. Before laying aside my pencil, for the use of which I have no fancy, I shall set down a few ideas that are now prominent in my recollection.

I set out, in the first place, upon this journey, simply to gratify my own curiosity, as to the practicability of one of the much talked of routes for the contemplated Atlantic and Pacific Railroad. Having previously travelled the southern or Gila route, I felt anxious to compare it with the Albuquerque or middle route. Although I conceive the former to be every way practicable, I now give it as my opinion that the latter is equally so, while it has the additional advantage of being more central and serviceable to the Union. I believe the route I travelled is far enough south to be certainly free from the danger of obstruction by snows in the winter. The route, in all its length, may be said to pass over a high plateau, or generally level country, for the most part thickly studded with prairie mountains, or detached elevations, seldom so linked together as to deserve to be called a chain of mountains. Numerous mountains were at all times in sight, but being for the most part isolated peaks, a detour of a few miles would always supersede the necessity of crossing them. To the south of our route from the Great Colorado to Zuni, the country was more level than on the north, and for the greater part of the distance a valley extends due east and west to the Colorado. The existence of so many mountains along the way must be considered, in reference to a railroad, as a very fortunate circumstance instead of a disadvantage, as it is the mountains alone which furnish the timber and never failing water. The plain are the only deserts and barren spots, if they are to be called so, in all that vast region of the country which lies between the Gila on the south, and the British possession on the north, and the Rio Grande on the east, and the Sierra Nevada of California on the west. The plateau or table lands must of course furnish the track upon